

MINUTES
OF THE
Thirty-First Annual Session
OF THE
LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION
OF THE
UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS
CONVENED WITH
ORANGE GROVE CHURCH

Lowndes County, Ga., October 14-15, 1937

REV. J. D. LITTLE, Moderator, Ashburn, Ga.
B. BAKER, Clerk, Ellenton, Ga.

Next Session to Convene with Corinth Church, Tift
County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before
Third Sunday in October, 1938

CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Prayer (unless divine service has just been concluded and generally then.)
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
3. Open the door for the reception of members, and read over minutes of last conference.
4. Call for absentees.
5. For acknowledgment.
6. For reference of deferred business.
7. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
8. For miscellaneous business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The body at each session shall be opened and closed with prayer
2. Call for church letters and have them read, and names of ministers and delegates enrolled.
3. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
6. Call for Corresponding Messengers.
7. Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Denominational Literature; (c) Temperance; (d) Church and Destitution; (e) Education; (f) Ministers; (g) Sunday Schools and Literature; (h) Resolutions; (i) Finance; (j) Card of Thanks.
8. Unfinished business
9. Report of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 14, 1937

The Thirty-first session of the Little River Association of the United Free Will Baptist, convened with Orange Grove church, Lowndes County, Georgia.

Prayer by Bro. J. L. Hartsfield.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. John R. Weeks.

Text: Exodus, 10th chapter and 22nd. verse.

Neon. Dinner served and enjoyed.

Called to order at 1:30 p. m. by the Moderator.

Prayer by Bro. Wm. Wilson.

Invited visiting Brethren and Sisters to seats with us.

Scripture lesson presented by the Moderator. Psalms, 39th chapter.

Called for letters from the churches. Had read and delegates seated.

Elected Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.

Rev. J. D. Little, Moderator.

Rev. Byron C. Davis, Assistant Moderator.

B. Baker, Clerk and Treasurer.

Called for Petitionary letters.

Called for Corresponding Messengers from sister associations.

Georgia Union represented by Rev. Neil H. Parrish. Union, visitor's report by Rev. J. F. Ashmore. Received by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to them.

Appointed Committees as follows:

PREACHING—Carson Parrish, Pafford Hiers, N. T. Brooks.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE—L. S. Davis, J. A. Pope, W. L. Akins T. D. Perry.

TEMPERANCE—Rev. John R. Weeks, George Cowart, Sisters Linnie Mae Giddens and Ida Highower.

CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION—L. W. Chafin, J. H. K. Jones, Clayton Bowen.

EDUCATION—Wm. Wilson, L. S. Davis, H. E. Willis, Cleon Clements.

MINISTERS—J. L. Hartsfield, F. C. Douglas, N. C. Branon, J. B. Kenon.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Sisters Maxie Branon, L. S. Davis, Lizzie Douglas, Annie Giddens, Zonie Smith, Virgie Newsome, Berta Baker.

RESOLUTIONS—Rev. Byron C. Davis, Jeff Giddens, Rev. J. C. Arnold, Johnnie Taff, A. A. Purvis.

FINANCE—Abner Baker, Rev. Seaborn Bowen, Ray Parrish.

CARD OF THANKS—Rev. Byron C. Davis, Wm. Wilson, N. C. Branon.

Returned Correspondence to sister associations as follows:

CHATTAHOOCHEE—Rev. J. D. Little. To convene with Little Bethel church Macon county, Georgia, near Ideal.

GEORGIA UNION—Rev. Byron C. Davis. To convene with Clements Bridge church, Mitchell county, Georgia, near Baconton, Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1938.

UNION—Rev. John R. Weeks.

SOUTH GEORGIA—Jeff Giddens.

Received reports from the union meetings as follows:

District No. 1, balance in Treasury..... \$23.24

District No. 2 balance in Treasury..... \$40.84

Received invitation card to join a Georgia Convention of Associations and tabled it until Friday's session.

By a move and second adjourned until Friday, 9 a. m.

REV. J. D. LITTLE, Moderator.

B. BAKER, Clerk.

FRIDAY, 9 A. M., OCTOBER 15, 1937

Called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by J. A. Pope.

Ordered 300 Minutes printed and authorized Treasurer to pay for same and pay the Clerk \$10.00 and the Moderator \$5.00 for their services.

Voted to pay traveling expense of Correspondent from Union Association, Rev. J. F. Ashmore, \$1.25.

By a move and second called for report of Committees.

PREACHING

Thursday night, Rev. Byron C. Davis. Friday, 11 a. m. Rev. J. F. Ashmore and Rev. Seaborn Bowen.

N. T. BROOKS, Chairman.

CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION

We your committee are happy to report that we find all churches in good spiritual condition and all supplied with pastors.

L. W. CHAFIN, Chairman.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE

We your Committee recommend that Free Will Baptist Literature be used in all our Sunday Schools.

We appoint Rev. Byron C. Davis to preach the next Introductory Sermon.

We recommend the next session of the association be held at Corinth church, Tift county, Georgia, one mile north of Brookfield, Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1938.

L. S. DAVIS, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE

We your Committee believe that we should be temperate in all things. We believe in so doing that we receive blessings. We also believe that we neglect to read the Church Covenant as often as we should. We urge that all ministers read and explain every part at least once every year.

REV. JOHN R. WEEKS, Chairman.

EDUCATION

We your Committee recommend that we should strive to give the rising generation every advantage possible in attaining at least a Common School education.

Wm. WILSON, Chairman.

MINISTERS

We your committee find all Ministers in good standing as far as we know.

J. L. HARTSFIELD, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We your Committee find last year we had only Two churches with Sunday Schools. This year we find Five churches with Sunday Schools. We do not only recommend that preachers and deacons encourage Sunday Schools and leagues but attend when it is possible and encourage fathers and mothers to attend and that we use Free Will Baptist Literature.

MRS. MAXIE BRANON, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

We your Committee recommend that the Preachers and Deacons meeting be discontinued, referring all business under the jurisdiction of the Preachers and Deacons meetings to the Union meeting.

Be it further resolved that the Union meeting continue in their respective Districts as they are, lending our every effort to their support.

We recommend that our Ministers affirm our doctrine in every sermon.

Be it further recommended that our Ministers, Deacons and members study, practice and teach our Covenant, Decorum and Doctrine. Giving earnest heed to reports of the various committees. Also, that our churches encourage the Ministry in every respective way.

REV. BYRON C. DAVIS, Chairman.

FINANCE

Collections from the Churches.....	\$55.75.
Balance in Treasury	4.96
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	\$60.71

E. RAY PARRISH, Chairman.

CARD OF THANKS

We the Delegates and Visitors of the Little River Association extend to Orange Grove church and Community a vote of our appreciation for the generous hospitality and care for us while in their midst. May the Lord's richest blessings continue to be with you till we meet again.

N. C. BRANON, Chairman.

Friday noon, served dinner.

Called to order at 2 p. m. by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. Jeff Giddens.

Took up reference from yesterday of joining State Convention. Discussed at length and on motion deferred or decided not to join.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1937.

The Preachers and Deacons meeting convened with Pine Level church. Elected Macom Paulk, chairman; and B. Baker, Clerk.

Before noon subject 14th paragraph of the Association Decorum. Proved right by the Scriptures by Rev. Byron C. Davis and spoke on by others. Unanimously voted approving the 14th paragraph as correct.

Afternoon subject, Scriptural qualifications of a Deacon, led by Rev J. D. Little. Spoke on by others.

Only two churches represented.

Four Deacons, 3 Preachers, attending the meeting.

Voted to refer the meeting to the association.

By a move and second, adjourned.

MACOM PAULK, Chairman.

B. BAKER, Clerk.

ROLL OF DELEGATES

COOL SPRINGS—N. C. Branon, L. W. Chafin, H. E. Willis, C. M. Chafin. Abner Baker, J. A. Pope, Mrs. Maxie Branon, Mrs. Virgie Newsome, Mrs. Fronie Chafin, Mrs. Berta Baker.

FRIENDSHIP—F. C. Douglas, Jeff Giddens, Mrs. Lizzie Douglas, Miss Linnie Mae Giddens, Mrs. Annie Giddens.

SUNNY SIDE—Clinton Clements, Clayton Bowen, Johnnie Taft.

FOREST HILL—Perry Rice.

ORANGE GROVE—Pafford Hiers, Carson E. Parrish, Daniel Griffin. E. Ray Parrish.

CORINTH—Mrs. Zonie Smith, Miss Ida Hightower, W. L. Akins, Melvin Akins.

OZIAS—Wm. Wilson, Geo. Cowart.

PINE LEVEL—T. D. Perry, J. H. K. Jones, N. T. Brooks, J. L. Hartsfield.

SHADY GROVE—A. A. Purvis, Mrs. Corine Purvis.

ZION HILL—L. S. Davis, J. B. Kennon, Mrs. L. S. Davis.

OAK GROVE—By proxy (Rev. J. C. Arnold.)

MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES

H. J. Griffin	Adel, Ga.
J. C. Arnold	Millwood, Ga.
W. A. Bowen	Axson, Ga.
W. R. Cato	Alma, Ga.
F. M. Cason	Valdosta, Ga., R. F. D. No. 4
John R. Weeks	Norman Park, Ga.

J. D. Little Ashburn, Ga.
 Byron C. Davis, Norman Park, Ga.
 Seaborn Bowen, Kirkland, Ga.
 M. T. Goff Lenox, Ga.

LICENTIATES

Charlie Balance

UNION MEETINGS

DISTRICT NO. 1

Shady Grove Fourth 5th. Sunday in 1937
 Corinth First 5th. Sunday in 1938
 Pine Level Second 5th. Sunday in 1938
 Cool Springs Third 5th. Sunday in 1938

DISTRICT NO. 2

Ozias Fourth 5th. Sunday in 1937
 Zion Hill First 5th. Sunday in 1938
 Orange Grove Second 5th. Sunday in 1938
 Sunny Side Third 5th. Sunday in 1938
 Forest Hill Fourth 5th. Sunday in 1938
 Oak Grove First 5th. Sunday in 1939
 Friendship Second 5th. Sunday in 1939

Took up free will offering for Rev. M. F. Cason and received \$10.00.

On motion ajourned to meet with Corinth church Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in 1938, one mile north of Brookfield, Ga., Tift county.

REV. J. D. LITTLE, Moderator, Ashburn, Ga.
 B. BAKER, Clerk, Ellenton, Ga.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

REV. J. D. LITTLE REV. H. J. GRIFFIS REV. JOHN C. ARNOLD
 REV. BYRON C. DAVIS REV. JOHN R. WEEKS

OBITUARIES

In memory of Sister Ruth Kennon. It is sad for us to report the death of Sister Ruth Kennon, a faithful member of Zion Hill church, who departed this life February 14th, 1937. She had been a member of this church since her 15th birthday, and always filled her place there. We regret this loss of our beloved sister, but are happy to know that she was faithful until the end.

Sister Ruth was a good worker in our Union meetings. She was prompt to her duties, and had been secretary and treasurer for some time. We miss her now, but we are trusting, and believe we will meet her in heaven.

MRS. ONEDA ARNOLD, Clerk.

It is with sadness we have to report the death of our beloved Brother W. P. James. We trust and feel that he is basking in the presence of God.

Faithfully submitted,

Wm. WILSON, Ozias Church, Clerk.

Our beloved Sister Sallie Flowers, died Sept. 29, 1937. She was a regular attendant at church when she was not Providentially hindered.

By, C. M. CHAFIN, Clerk.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

C. M. Chafin Norman Park, Ga.
 J. L. Hartsfield Ty Ty, Ga.
 Wm. W. Bryan Omega, Ga.
 L. S. Davis Wareboro, Ga.
 Martin Corbett Pearson, Ga.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in heaven and of such christians on earth as are not attached to the visible church according to the gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition, repugnant to the Word of God, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of man.

5. The gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; and that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference being under Christ essentially independent and absolute, and that if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. The churches may nevertheless; we suppose, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence; but that the right and authority of churches being inalienable, or in no way compromised or hindered by entering into an association, and therefore an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only power being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity; to promote natural intercourse, and a concentration of voluntary effort; and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by any individual.

7. That the authority of the churches is designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel, and for the preservation of true and

orderly bodies of Christians on earth; that is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but that does not extend to persons, property or the conscience of men in any manner whatsoever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of such membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

9. That the officers of a church are elders and deacons; that the elders are called bishops or pastors, and all of the elders are equal in rank though they may perform different functions—since some may be bishops or pastors of particular churches, while others may be simple elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the church—such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church, he is not more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person; yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saint's feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. That elders and deacons must be set apart to their office or ordination, by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

14. No preacher shall be ordained unless called to take charge of a church as pastor, or some good and sufficient reason.

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in Association year; or if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time; but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The Deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference, if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also, it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastors to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two days' monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can; for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant (Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

11. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgments. (6) For reference or deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, unless withdrawn the members who make them shall be liable to be taken under dealing with the church.

15. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend the trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church, Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second and all important questions the vote shall be taken, by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon request, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

25. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it can be to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet at least once a year.

30. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. No Licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two consecutive monthly conferences.

CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace into the knowledge of our divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to devote our time and talents to the interest of pure and undefiled religion, we do solemnly covenant with each other to walk together in love and brotherly kindness and to glorify God through life as the only hope in death.

2. We agree to exercise Christian love and affection for each other as members of the household of faith, that the knowledge of truth may be glorified in us and by us, to the end that we may be perfect in the will of God through Christ Jesus concerning us.

3. We endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and ordinances of His church, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for the ministry among us and other necessary expenses of the church.

4. We will not neglect the devotional exercises of secret prayer and the duties of family worship, and the training up of our children and those under our care with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven.

5. We agree to neglect our secular or worldly avocation to attend the stated meetings of the church and to labor for its prosperity in the most holy faith, believing that if we do this we let our light shine; if we fail to attend to the sacred duties we prove to be a stumbling block to the world and reproach to the church.

6. We believe that all Christians are endowed with certain talents and influences, for the improvement of which they will be accountable to the Great Head of the church; that if there are unruly members in the church it is our duty to approach such in the spirit of love and to admonish them to forsake their evil doings, if they will not hear thee, take one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established; then if they will not hear the church, then let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

7. We believe the worldly dance and drinking ardent spirits with and co-mingling with drunkards are sins which should be condemned by the church.

8. It shall be the duty of all pastors to read or have read this Covenant and to explain every part and clause thereof to the church on the openings of all church meetings.

DECORUM

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until their successors shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceedings shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the moderator

He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in the order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave of absence without permission from the body.

11. This Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

13. No church shall liberate any minister coming from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received credentials bearing their approval.

14. Any church that shall tolerate Unknown Tongue in their church shall be regarded as encouraging heresy, and shall be dealt with for such. Also any church, or pastor allowing preaching of such, that is, sinless perfection, as a second work of grace, to occupy their pulpit, shall be dealt with for encouraging heresy.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Little River Free Will Baptist Association.

2. It shall be composed of: (1). The ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto; (2) Legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements of churches: Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the minister whose membership is with them, give name and post office of the Church Clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members, and the amount paid for Associational purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs having the unrestricted right to administer its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.

5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty it is

to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled, and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use their best influence to promote a moral and benevolent means and institutions such as education, Sabbath Schools, missionary work, etc.

6. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our articles of faith and conform to its usages.

8. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority of votes.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living, true, eternal God, the Father, of whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ from whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, Son of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into the world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world, and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven, at the last day to judge both the quick and the dead.—1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:8; John 2:2; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; John 2:16.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father, through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 19:7-9; Acts 4:4; 5:6; Eph. 4:4; 5:6.

4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright; and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, and the knowledge of the truth that they might be saved, from which end Christ had commanded the gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:12-17; Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them, because they believed not in the only begotten Son of God Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all contradiction that all men at one time or another, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God, they may be eternally saved.—Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe that whole Scriptures are infallibly true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:6-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of general provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of all mankind who repent and believe the Gospel—Luke 14:16-20; Mat. 28:19-20; Luke 13:2-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family, so as they all might be happy would they give place to His divine teaching; whereas such who do not receive the divine impression of Holy Spirit shall at a future day own their condemnation just and charge themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:44-65; Psalms 1:1; 2:11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation; considered such who turn the grace of God to lasciviousness; denying the Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore shall bring upon themselves swift destruction, but we observe that they, and such the apostle saith, because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved, therefore, the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul that doeth evil, living and dying therein, for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:4; 2nd Peter 2:1; Thess. 2:11-12; Romans 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their own person are only subject to the first death; which was brought on by the fall of Adam, and not that any of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell the guilt of Adam's sin, of such is the kingdom of God.—1st Co. 15:32; Matt. 19:2-5, Mark 9:26-27; Matt. 19-14.

12. We believe that good works are fruits of saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace and not out of the use of these means eternal life is promised men.—Rev. 22:14-15; Isaiah 1:19-20; Matt. 7-8; Jer. 13:24-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scripture for justification before God through his work, power or ability, which he has in and for himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ, believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 13:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or can not come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect of mere choice, farther than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who die in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-23; Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believer's baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament of bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord.

fasting and prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Luke 22:19-20; John 13:4-7; James 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion and that believers are the only objects for baptism.—Matt. 3:15; Mark 1:15-20; Acts 3:38-39; Rom. 6:5; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in the general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28-29; II 5-6.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 2:9.

FORMS

FORM FOR LICENSE

This is to certify that the bearer, Brother.....

..... of the County of.....
State of..... is a regular member of the Free Will Baptist church, in the said county of....., State of..... is hereby licensed to preach the gospel for one year. Done by order of the church in conference.

This..... day of..... A. D. 193.....

Signed..... Moderator.

Ordaining Council.

PETITIONARY LETTER FROM A CHURCH TO AN ASSOCIATION

..... Free Will Baptist Church of Christ
This the..... day of..... A. D., 193.....

To the..... Free Will Baptist Association
sendeth greetings: We constitute a Free Will Baptist Church by Elder..... with..... mem-
bers. We have adopted the Articles of Faith, Covenant and Decorum of the Free Will Baptist church. We are at peace. We have called as pastor, Elder..... We

send as our delegates, Brethren.....
We do humbly petition..... Free Will Baptist Association for membership in the same. We send for minutes \$..... Hoping our humble petition will be granted, we are,

Your brethren in Christ,

..... Moderator
..... Church Clerk.

CHURCH LETTER

..... Free Will Baptist Church of Christ
This..... day of A. D., 193.....

This is to certify that.....
is a member of the above named church in good standing and is hereby at
his or her request dismissed from us. Done by order of the church in
conference. This letter will be void after six months.

..... Moderator.
..... Church Clerk.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A CHURCH

When any number of converts, not less than five, desire to constitute a church, the following order should be observed: (A) The officiating minister shall inquire into the Christian character and ability of the members to sustain the church. This being satisfactory, (B) The minister shall then read the Articles of Faith, and finding they have obeyed and adopted the same, (C) He shall then read the Church Covenant, while the congregation joins in singing a suitable hymn. (D) He shall have the members to extend to each other the right hand of fellowship. (E) He shall then offer a prayer of consecration. (F) He shall then declare the body organized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business shall be as follows: (1) The election of a clerk (2) The election of deacons. (3) The election of a treasurer. (4) The election of a pastor. (5) The selection of a name. (6) The selection of a day of worship. 7 Adjournment.